

RISK ASSESSMENT FINDINGS PRESENTED

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and members of the community gathered at the regular RAB meeting in July to gain a better understanding of the Main Installation Baseline Risk Assessment (RA).

Dr. Ted Simon, Risk Assessor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), provided an overview of the risk assessment process that was applied at the Depot. Dr. Simon explained that an RA provides a protective estimate of health risks that could be present from contact with soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater.

Developed by EPA, the RA is an important part of the Remedial Investigation. It determines where and how much cleanup may be required at each location, in order to meet acceptable standards. These health-protective standards are determined according to the intended future land-use for the site. In the case of the Depot, most of the Main Installation will be used for light industrial and commercial purposes. In these areas, the RA identifies where cleanup will be needed to ensure that future workers are safe. In other areas, such as the Golf Course and Recreation

Area, the RA considers the potential risks to adults and children who might play in these areas on a regular basis.

For comparison purposes, the RA also considers the risks that might be present for a future resident on the Main Installation, even though the Depot is not zoned for residential use.

Following Dr. Simon's overview, Dr. Vijaya Mylavarapu, Risk Assessor for CH2M Hill, presented a summary of the findings from the Depot RA, which was conducted by CH2M Hill, the contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dr. Mylavarapu explained each of the steps followed in the RA and provided the findings for each Functional Unit (FU). These refer to six areas of the Main Installation that were identified as having similar past and future land uses. The groundwater in the shallow aquifer under the Main Installation was also investigated as the seventh FU.

The RA concludes that the Main Installation is safe for workers, with the exception of a few limited areas that show higher than acceptable levels of lead. These areas have been included

in the cleanup recommendations outlined in the Proposed Plan. Recreational activities can be safely continued in the Golf Course and Recreation Area. And the Housing Area is safe for future residential use.

Dr. Mylavarapu explained that, if the industrial areas of the Main Installation were to be used for residential use, some areas would require cleanup to ensure the safety of future residents. However, these areas are considered safe for industrial land uses.

The RA recommends that the groundwater under the Depot should not be used for drinking water. Currently, this water does not flow into the Memphis drinking water system and will be restricted from future use, as recommended in the Proposed Plan.

Finally, the RA considered potential risks to off-site residents and determined that the Depot does not pose any unacceptable risks to the community.

For more information on the RA, visit the Information Repositories or phone (901) 544-0613. □

RAB Member Profile

Carter Gray Keeps the Memphis Environment In Check



As the Manager of the Pollution Control Section of the Memphis/Shelby County Health Department, Carter Gray brings valuable experience on environmental issues to the Depot's Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

In Memphis and Shelby County, Mr. Gray is responsible for issuing and enforcing regulations for the construction and operation of monitoring wells and non-municipal water production wells. He and his team also monitor air pollutants identified in the Clean Air Act, issue and enforce all air pollution permits and investigate environmental concerns in the community.

Mr. Gray has been a member of the RAB since it was first formed, providing valuable guidance to the Depot environmental team and ensuring that other city and state officials are kept up to date on the cleanup program.

"We are now entering the exciting part of the cleanup process," said Mr. Gray. "And I would like to see the community begin to share my excitement at the fact the Depot is actually getting to the real cleanup portion after this long evaluation process."

"We have painstakingly studied the problems, and now we are seeing the results. That's what we are interested in, because this is what the Superfund process is supposed to accomplish. The Depot's public participation procedures allow everyone who is interested to have a strong voice in the Depot's current cleanup efforts."

While the groundwater under the Depot is not currently used for drinking, Mr. Gray believes this water should be monitored over time, to ensure it doesn't move into the deeper aquifer.

Mr. Gray is also keeping a close eye on the removal action at Dunn Field, and says he's concerned about the reliability of historic records that identified the disposal locations.

"A lot of the Depot's current (cleanup) work is based on data from a preliminary evaluation, and additional investigation might be necessary to ensure that data is accurate," said Mr. Gray. "I feel this validation can come as a result of the current excavation of chemical warfare materiel on Dunn Field, and this process must be watched closely as it progresses." □

Biological Center, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Memphis Depot for use in their respective archives and

August, the CWM team had found approximately 100,000 containing sodium hydroxide pills at Site 1. The vials are approximately 2-1/2 inches in length and less than a half-inch in diameter and have been identified as being from the M-9 Agent Detection Kit. Soldiers used the kits to detect chemical agents in vapor form. Because sodium hydroxide is a caustic substance, the vials have been removed for safe, offsite disposal.

For more information on the CWM removal project, members of the community are encouraged to attend weekly CWM briefings. For more information, contact Mr. Clyde Hunt, the CWM on-site coordinator. The briefings are held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Outreach Room at 2163 Airways Blvd., Suite 44. You can also visit the Community Information Trailer located at Gate 15 on Dunn Road. The trailer is open to the community on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For more information on the CWM removal project, or for an opportunity to watch a live video of the removal activities inside the Depot, contact Mr. Hunt or his assistant, Ms. Elizabeth Burks, at (901) 544-3115. □